



Okehampton Town Council



Okehampton Town Council  
Town Hall  
Fore Street  
Okehampton EX20 1AA

01837 53179

[www.okehampton.gov.uk](http://www.okehampton.gov.uk)

## NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2022

Sign up to receive the newsletters electronically by visiting the Council's [website](http://www.okehampton.gov.uk)

# Okehampton EDWARDIAN EVENING

THURSDAY DECEMBER 1ST

6:00-9:00PM



Late Night  
Shopping

Traditional  
Stalls

Entertainment

If you would like a stall at the event please  
email [everythingokehampton@gmail.com](mailto:everythingokehampton@gmail.com)  
for more information



|        |  |
|--------|--|
| 5.50pm | The Curfew bell on St James' Chapel will ring                |
| 6pm    | Christmas Light Switch On                                    |
| 7pm    | 7 Carols at 7pm with the Town Mayor outside St James' Chapel |

### A Christmas Message from the Mayor....

"As the festive season is upon us once again, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a peaceful, healthy and prosperous New Year to all residents of Okehampton.

It has been an honour and delight to continue in my role as Mayor over the past year, having supported many coffee mornings, grant presentations, local community and neighbouring civic events, not to mention this year's once in a lifetime regal events.

This year, amongst other things I was privileged to have been asked to represent the town at Ten Tors, Okehampton Show and Polish commemorations. We were also fortunate to have a whole BBC Spotlight devoted to the town.

Okehampton Town Mayor

# CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT QUIZMAS SPECIAL

Friday 9 December

KO 7:00 for 7:30

Charter Hall

£5 per person

Teams of up to 6 persons.

*includes Mince Pies & Mulled Wine (till its gone)*

To book a table

Email: [admin@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:admin@okehampton.gov.uk)

T: 01837 53179

All profits to Mayors Charity

Dream-A-Way

I was particularly proud of our Remembrance Day commemorations, with so many varied and uniformed participants and great community spirit, a sentiment echoed by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant.

It is also great to see how the Dartmoor Line and its customers have developed over its first 12 months and how it has bought such a positive and upbeat feeling in and around Okehampton.

Can I continue by recognising all those people and organisations I have met over the past twelve months, who have bought such care, compassion, pride and joy to the community, with their achievements attained, the respect gained and the contribution made to Okehampton. Thank you.

Before closing, I'd like to stress that, over the Christmas period, we should not forget to care for those who are less fortunate than ourselves, including the elderly, the infirmed and all those vulnerable people of our town, perhaps some who may struggle to feed or heat themselves this Christmas.

As Mayor, I will continue to attend as many

functions as possible and help to raise the profile of our local charities, community groups, voluntary organisations, businesses and individuals.

On behalf of all the town councillors and staff at Okehampton Town Council, Jill and I would like to wish you all a very enjoyable and safe Christmas and hope that 2023 will be an even brighter and positive one for us all.

Thank you and stay safe."

Councillor Bob Tolley  
Town Mayor



## Christmas Trails

Free trail sheets will be available in early December from the Town Hall and the council website

**Free Parking in Simmons Park Carpark after 3pm weekdays, weekends and Bank Holidays throughout December. WDBC are also offering free parking from 3pm on Thursdays and Fridays in Mill Road car park.**

## Can you help with some unloved Christmas decorations

In the Town hall are some unloved Christmas decorations that need brightening up. Come and pick one to decorate. Either put it on your own tree or bring it back and we will hang it on our tree in the Charter Hall foyer.

Paint, pens, glitter or cut out sparkly bits we love seeing the creativity.

## Okehampton Town Council Cemetery

Please note that Christmas wreaths in the Cemetery will be removed by Town Council staff during the last week of January. Bereaved family members who wish to retain wreaths or the attached memorial cards are advised to remove these prior to the above date.





## Christmas and New Year Council Office Opening Hours

The Council Office in the Town Hall will close to the public at 4pm Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December and reopen on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023.

### Remembrance Parade and Service



Mace Bearers, David Piper and Andy Oliver, accompanied the Town Mayor, Cllr Tolley, along the procession route to the Service at All Saints Church on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November.

Deputy Lieutenant, Richard Stevens, attended and inspected the parade in Fore Street



alongside Cllr Tolley and Cllr Mott, Mayor of WDBC before they were dismissed at the end of the event.

The Parade and Service were very well supported and the weather was exceptionally sunny and warm.

### Save the Charter Hall!

#### Sponsor a slate!

- Where do we hold our Coffee Mornings?
- Our Civic Events?
- Our Social group meetings?
- Drama productions? Lectures? Community activities?



The Charter Hall is our Town 'village hall' and a very valuable Community space.

But it needs our help

- It needs a new roof to stop the rain getting in.
- It needs the ventilation system repairing and rejigging to be more efficient.

This was in the planning when Covid arrived and since then, the costs of the work have doubled. So, we need your help to get this done and enable the Charter Hall to continue to be used and useful to all sectors of our community again.

Will you sponsor a slate as a way of helping the town repair this community asset?

For a minimum donation of £10 your name will be listed as a Benefactor

We need to match fund the sum already set aside for this work, but which is now not enough to cover the costs.

Cash, cheques, and BACS payments are all gratefully received by the Charter Hall Roof Fund and will be added to the earmarked fund for the work.

**BACS:**      **Account Name:**      Okehampton Town Council  
                 **Sort Code:**            30 98 90  
                 **Account No:**        **18063468**  
                 **Reference:**            Please add your name/Roof Fund



So that your name gets added to the list of those who have contributed, please also email your details and confirmation that you are happy for your name to be published to [townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk) or drop a note into the Town Hall.

### Waste Bin – Clapps Wood

An additional litter bin has been purchased and installed by the Council in Clapps Wood.

## Town Council Grants

This year, 2022/23, the Council has a budget of £29,000 for the award of grants supporting not-for-profit community organisations and groups for the benefit of the residents of Okehampton. Contact the office for details of how to apply or find them on the [website](#). Grants awarded in October are as follows:

- Immersion in the Community CIC - £500, pool table purchase
- Okehampton United Ecclesiastical Charity - £750, clock maintenance
- Everything Okehampton - £2,000, Christmas light cable maintenance

**The grant application process has been reviewed and is changing for forthcoming years. Details can be found on the Council's website or obtained from the Town Hall.**



## Coming up in December

- 1<sup>st</sup> Edwardian Evening  
Okehampton College PTFA (Charter Hall)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Rotary Club Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Friendly Circle (Charter Hall)
- 9<sup>th</sup> Town Mayor's Christmas Quiz (Charter Hall)
- 10<sup>th</sup> Santa's Big Breakfast (Charter Hall)
- 11<sup>th</sup> Okehampton Primary School Santa Run (Simmons Park)
- 14<sup>th</sup> Co-Op Funeral Care Christmas Memorial (Charter Hall)
- 15<sup>th</sup> NHS Blood Donation Session (Charter Hall)
- 16<sup>th</sup> Wren Music Christmas Concert (Charter Hall)
- 17<sup>th</sup> Carnival Committee Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
- 18<sup>th</sup> Okehampton Excelsior Silver Band Christmas Concern (Charter Hall)



Grant cheque presentation to Wren Music

## Town Council Meeting Dates

### December

- 5<sup>th</sup> Policy & Resources Committee Budget Meeting (6.40pm)
- Property Committee Budget Meeting (7pm)
- Parks Committee (7.20pm)

### 12<sup>th</sup> Full Council

### January 2023

- 9<sup>th</sup> Property Committee
- 16<sup>th</sup> Policy & Resources Committee
- 30<sup>th</sup> Full Council



Meeting dates for the 2022/23 Mayoral Year were agreed at the Annual Council Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> May and can be found on the [website](#). Some Planning Committee Meetings have been scheduled; others will be convened as needed.

Council meetings normally start at 7pm and are held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Fore Street. Occasionally meetings are subject to change, the [website](#) or noticeboard in the Victorian Arcade should be checked for up-to-date information.

### Contact Us – 01837 53179

Emma James, Town Clerk & RFO  
[townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk)

Caroline Ellis, Assistant Town Clerk (Accounts)  
[accounts@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:accounts@okehampton.gov.uk)

Abi Horn, Admin Officer and Mayor's Assistant  
(Bookings and Invitations for the Mayor)  
[admin@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:admin@okehampton.gov.uk)

James McGahey, Park-Keeper  
[parks@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:parks@okehampton.gov.uk)

### Your Councillors

Cllr Bob Tolley (Town Mayor)

|                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Cllr Terry Abbots       | Cllr Allenton Fisher   |
| Cllr Jan Goffey         | Cllr Carole Holt       |
| Cllr Dr Michael Ireland | Cllr Tony Leech        |
| Cllr Christine Marsh    | Cllr Brendan Matravers |
| Cllr Ann Wood           | Cllr Julie Yelland     |

**There are currently three vacancies please contact the office for details**

Individual Councillors contact details can be obtained from the Office or website.

Do you need help to learn or improve your reading skills?  
Read Easy will be in the Library on the first Tuesday of each month from 10am-12noon